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FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

		Application Number	09/770,003
		Filing Date	January 25, 2001
		First Named Inventor	William Girzone
		Art Unit	2882
		Examiner Name	George Y. Wang
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	9	Attorney Docket Number	Girzone 2

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> After Final	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual	Kevin J. Carroll; Devine, Millimet & Branch, P.A.	
Signature		
Date	3-3-03	

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

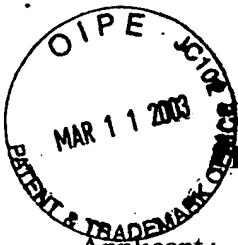
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Typed or printed	Heather Woods	
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Reply under 37 CFR 1.116 –
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : William Girzone
Serial No.: 09/770,003
Filed : 1/25/2001
Title : GAS BLOCKING DEVICE FOR OPTICAL FIBER REPEATER

Art Unit : 2882
Examiner : George Y. Wang
Docket No.: Girzone 2

Box AF
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

AMENDMENT/REPLY AFTER FINAL UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 3, 2002, please amend the application as follows and consider the following remarks.

In the Claims:

Please replace claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) An optical fiber device comprising:

a housing having a wall, wherein said housing is vacuum drawn and pressurized with a gas to prevent moisture from entering said housing;

an optical fiber holding tube extending through said wall and having a first end and a second end, said first end of said optical fiber holding tube contained in said housing and said second end of said optical fiber holding tube located outside of said housing;

a plurality of optical fibers extending from said first end of said optical fiber holding tube to said second end of said optical fiber holding tube without interruption; and

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